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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yuji Nakajima et al

Group Art Unit: 1644

Serial No.: 10/768,965

Examiner: Nora Maureen Rooney

Filed: February 2, 2004

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 4559

For: ALLERGEN INACTIVATING METHOD, ALLERGEN INACTIVATING FILTER,
AIR TREATING APPARATUS, VIRUS INACTIVATING AGENT, VIRUS
INACTIVATING METHOD, VIRUS INACTIVATING FILTER, AIR
CONDITIONING UNIT AND AIR CONDITIONER

**RESPONSE TO THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND ELECTION OF SPECIES**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: September 28, 2006

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of August 28, 2006, requiring restriction among nine alleged inventions under the provisions of 35 USC § 121.

In the Office Action, restriction was made among the inventions of: **Group I** - drawn to an allergen inactivating method (claims 1-8); **Group II** - drawn to an allergen inactivating filter (claims 9-15); **Group III** - drawn to an air treating apparatus (claims 16-18); **Group IV** - drawn to a home electric appliance (claim 19); **Group V** - drawn to a virus inactivating agent comprising protein denaturing agent and enzyme (claims 20-22); **Group VI** - drawn to a virus inactivating method (claim 23); **Group VII** - drawn to a virus inactivating filter comprising a virus tapping filter and a virus inactivating agent (claim 24); **Group VIII** -

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drawn to an air conditioning unit (claims 25-29); and **Group IX** - drawn to an air conditioner comprising two air conditioning units (claim 30).

Applicants hereby provisionally elect **Group I, that is, claims 1-8**, for examination on the merits in this application. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that if any of Groups I-IV above is elected, then applicant must select one of the following single conditions such as a) alkali, b) acid, c) enzyme or d) heat as a further requirement to which the claims shall be restricted in the event any generic claim was not found to be allowable. It was further required that applicants state the claims which read on the elected species.

Applicants hereby elect **condition c) - enzyme** of the present specification as a single disclosed species in the event the generic claim is not found to be allowable. From a review of the specification and claims, it would appear that the **claims 1-8** read on the elected species. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected species.

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

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In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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